

Jonathan Boucher to George Washington, April 11, 1771, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

ANNAPOLIS 11th. of Apl. 1771.

DEAR SIR

I do very cordially sympathize with Mrs. Washington in the uneasiness I can easily suppose She must necessarily be under during this State of Suspence. Her Son was, last Monday Ev'ning, innoculated in Baltimore: and tho' there really be in his Favour Every Thing that could be wished for, yet, I know She will be anxious & impatient till it be over. All I can do to ensure Success She may depend on: & I can with Truth declare, that, at present, there is but a bare Possibility of his taking it unfavourable. In Truth, They make so very light of it in Baltimore, that one is almost ashamed even to mention a Suspicion of a Possibility of Failure.—We went upon the Monday; & for Fear of his possibly catching it in the natural Way, I had Him innoculated immediately; more especially as He was very eager for it, & in high Spirits. The Pill He took that Night made Him a little sick; & Joe complain'd that His purged Him very unmercifully. I left Him yesterday at the Doctor's, where every thing seemed agreeable to Him; I purpose being with Him again on the Monday, as his Fever will likely be a coming on, on the Tuesday or Wednesday, & Eruption on Thursday: all which Time I will be there. The Doctor promised to write to You as You requested. And should any occasion arise, You may depend on hearing from Me, ev'n by Express: So that, if You do not hear from Me, to the Contrary, Mrs. Washington may rest assur'd all is well—as I give You my Word & Honour that, if there be but ever so

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distant an Appearance of any thing unfavourable, I will not fail to communicate it to You immediately. There is a young Gentleman there (& but One, tho' more are daily expected) from Northampton County, of the name of Savage; a modest, well-behav'd Man, & I believe the Clerk of a County there. He promised to be a Companion to Jack, & I dare say will be an acceptable one.

If any Thing should be the matter with His [word mutilated] They are to send Express to Me; & if They do, I shall have an Oppty. of letting You know of it by the Post—if I do not, conclude All is well.—Shou'd I not write [mutilated] Week from Baltimore, which yet I intend to do, be not uneasy.—This will be brought to You by Mr. Templeman, & being written in a Hurry in a crowded Store, must I fear be confused. All I am & wish is to make You & Mrs. Washington easy; & I hope You will be so, in Confidence that if there really were any Appearance of Danger, I wou'd not, from a mistaken Tenderness, Conceal it from You.

I beg my afft. Compts. (as Jack also does) to his Mamma, Sister, yr.self & Mr. Washington, & am, very truly

yr. most obedt. Hble Servt. JONAN. BOUCHER